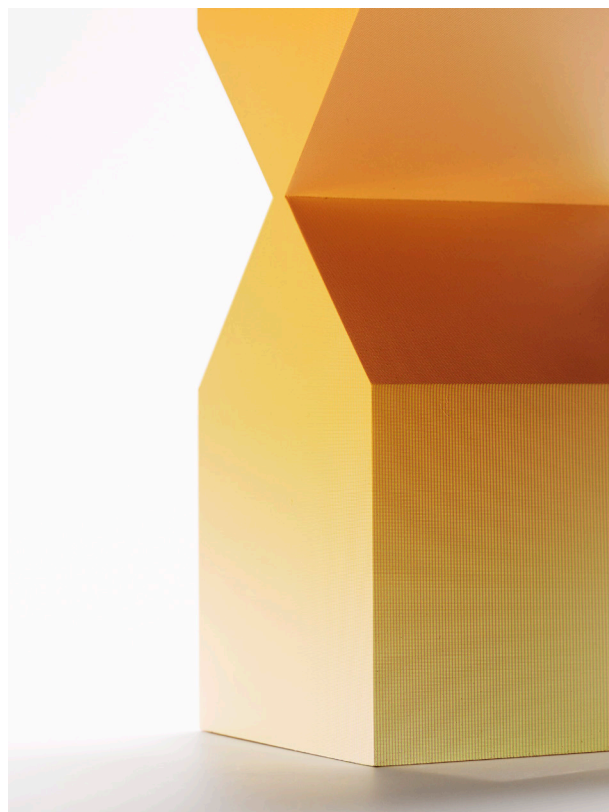


Embedding the values of the New European Bauhaus in EU legislation



Manifesto for the
EU institutions

Time to Act:
for high-quality
architecture and living
environment for all



ACE key policy priorities for the EU institutions

Promoting high-quality architecture and living environment for all

- Recognising the value of architecture as a key lever for high-quality living spaces
- **Embedding the values of the New European Bauhaus in EU legislation**
- Developing a proposal for a Planning Services Directive

Advancing the highest standards in education and ensuring the upskilling of professionals

- Aligning with the International Standard of Training (5+2)
- Resolving the problem of mixed qualifications
- Ensuring the up-skilling of professionals

Establishing a SME-friendly regulatory framework

- Ensuring strict reciprocal application of the Government Procurement Agreement and International Procurement Instrument
- Revising the Public Procurement Directive

Favouring architectural and planning solutions in the built environment

- Tackling whole-life impact of the built environment and apply circular economy principles in the construction sector
- Promoting renovation, transformation and re-use of existing buildings over demolition and new builds
- Adapting living spaces to the effect of climate change through architectural and planning solutions

Challenge: How to achieve high-quality in the built environment?

Solution: Embed the values of the New European Bauhaus in EU legislation.

Background

Announced by the President of the EU Commission in September 2020, the NEB elevates the complexity of our natural and built habitat to an unprecedented political level, inviting us to reimagine our living spaces in order to make them more sustainable, inclusive and beautiful.

ACE Policy Position

ACE welcomes the NEB, considering that, with this initiative, the EU Commission brings an essential cultural dimension to the Green Deal. The holistic and cultural approach that underpins the NEB can be a driving force for quality planning processes, resulting in quality projects on the ground. If we really want to transform our built environment, NEB values and principles should lie at the heart of all public policies that have an impact on the built and non-built environment, in particular in the following areas:

Procurement procedures: A high-quality built environment can only be the outcome of quality processes. NEB values should be clearly reflected in the EU Public Procurement Directive. In particular, there is a need for intellectual services to be treated differently in the Directive: a cultural project cannot be procured like the purchase of bricks. Moreover, the Directive should be improved to provide better access for SME's and favour approaches that support quality and innovation, like Design, Urban Master-plan and Landscape Competitions.

Skills and knowledge: A high-quality built environment is the result of the work of many skilled professionals in the construction sector, but also contingent on the quality of administrative, policy and decision-making processes. By supporting and investing in the education and life-long learning of architects, architectural research and the dissemination of the architectural culture, public authorities can bolster a high-quality built environment, in line with the ambitions of the NEB. We need to create new generations of professionals that adhere to the NEB values.

Financial incentives: The EU Taxonomy is a key driver of the transformation of our built environment; it should therefore reflect NEB core values. On the other hand, EU funding schemes should primarily benefit small-scales grassroots initiatives having a strong co-design dimension. Grass-roots initiatives can have a major effect on the living environment because they consolidate the community's efforts, while being strongly rooted in the local culture.

Quality assessment: There is a need to develop and apply tools to measure and effectively assess, in an objective manner, the overall quality and sustainability of what we design and construct. The ACE calls for greater synergies among these tools and initiatives, especially the [Davos Baukultur Quality System](#), the [NEB Compass](#) and [Level\(s\)](#).

Planning and building regulations: Regulations provide a minimum baseline but are insufficient to ensure, within a long term process, the necessary quality outcomes in lines with the NEB values. Flexibility and the possibility to experiment need to be engrained in planning bodies. The act of building must be envisaged as an evolutionary process leading to an harmonious balance between what is built and what is not. Therefore, we need to (re)-use tools like Urban Master planning, to guide processes and the co-development of urban regeneration, in a long term and in a holistic manner. To maintain throughout the process a foresight vision, supported by all stakeholders, including local communities and government bodies, such tools should include milestones for reporting on the intermediary quality achievements.

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Links

- [ACE Manifesto on the New European Bauhaus](#)
- [ACE-UIA publication, High-quality Architecture and Built Environment: A Political Goal](#)
- [ACE-EAAE Statement, Upskilling to deliver high-quality architecture for a beautiful, sustainable and inclusive environment](#)
- [New European Bauhaus Collective Statement on public procurement](#)
- [Brussels Declaration of European Mayors](#)



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Climate Adaption Kokkedal – Kokkedal, Denmark / Danemark

Architectural office / Bureau d'architecture: Schønherr A/S - Photo: © Carsten Ingemann

“Good design can improve lives. The New European Bauhaus will demonstrate that the necessary can also be beautiful.”

Source: Press statement by President Ursula von der Leyen, October 2020.

